# Stewardship Notes
Indiana Division of Forestry

Tree Planting Tips

Planting trees can be a very rewarding experience. Trees provide a variety of benefits to our world, including habitats for a multitude of creatures great and small; forest products we all use everyday; clean air and water; stabilization of soil; and a wonderful sense of well-being. We depend so much on trees that by planting more, we make our communities better places to live.

Whether you decide to plant just a few trees or several acres of trees, some planning ahead of time will help ensure your efforts are successful. Tree planting by hand or machine can be an arduous task. Placing some thought into the project prior to starting will make the effort worthwhile.

Some general tips to keep in mind when planning your tree planting project include:

- Seek professional advice from a consultant or district forester
- Determine the specific purpose for planting the trees (windbreak, erosion control, timber production, etc.)
- Match the tree species to the soil type
- Match the tree species to the site
- Plan on at least two years of weed control
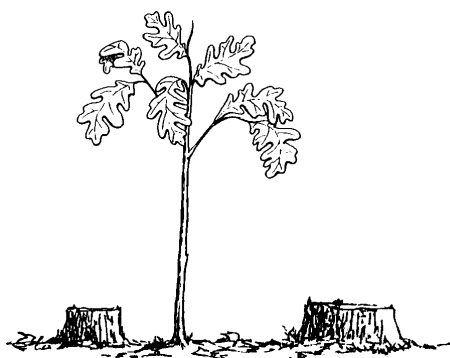
Tree planting in Indiana generally occurs in early spring. Orders for trees from the state nurseries are placed in the fall; trees are picked up or shipped in the spring. Planting season generally runs from mid-March to mid-May. A cool, overcast day with little or no wind may be uncomfortable for the person planting trees, but these conditions provide a good environment for the tree seedlings. Follow the handling instructions that come with your seedlings so they have the best chance for survival.

With proper planning before planting, along with good planting techniques and follow-up care, your project will be the success you wanted, and the benefits to the environment will continue for years to come.

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